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HAMILTON LEVEL WITH SCHUMACHER'S WIN RECORD

Lewis Hamilton, who once saw Michael Schumacher's record of 91 wins as unbeatable, has now matched it. Schumacher's son Mick presented Hamilton with one of his father's old helmets after the Briton took a record-equaling 91st win at the Eifel Grand Prix at Nurburg. The German has required care since his 2013 skiing accident. **P13**

Charges against top court judge put CJI in a spot

Opinion divided on whether he should call a full SC court or form a panel to study matter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

ANDHRA Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's letter to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, in which he levelled serious allegations Justice N V Ramana, has perhaps put the CJI in a position no other head of India's judiciary has faced.

Unlike anonymous complaints from the public against members of the judiciary, this letter to the CJI has been written by a person holding a constitutional position against another person, who also holds a similar post.

In the face of this situation, Chief Justice Bobde may have no option but to take cognisance of the letter one way or the other, especially as the matter is now in the public domain after the letter was shared with the media by the chief minister's principal adviser Ajeya Kallam on Saturday.

But opinions are divided over the options before the CJI to address the issue. One set of apex court judges said as per procedure, CJI Bobde will have to place the complaint before the full court of the Supreme Court for its consideration.

These judges said if a complaint is received against a sitting judge, it needs to be placed before all judges of the court, who will then take a collective decision on the matter. "The fact is that the complaint has been made by a Chief Minister, it is expected of the CJI to place the matter before the full court of the Supreme Court so that an appropriate response can be initiated," said a former judge.

This procedure is also contained in the principles of judicial conduct adopted by the SC's full court two decades ago, which clearly laid down that any complaint against sitting judges would have to be considered by all the judges of the highest court.

The need for a full court sitting was considered necessary to keep the judiciary's image above suspicion.

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NO PRECEDENT TO FALL BACK UPON

Whatever be the CJI's next step, he has no precedent to fall back upon. In his letter, Jagan alleged that Justice Ramana's family members were involved in "questionable" land deals relating to the Amaravati project and that he interfered with the functioning of the Andhra high court.

EXPRESS READ

Music composer Rajan passes away at 87

New Delhi: Noted Kannada film music composer Rajan (of the Rajan-Nagendra musical duo fame) passed away after a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on Sunday night. He was 87. **P7**

GST Council to discuss compensation today

New Delhi: The GST Council in its meeting on Monday is likely to discuss the suggestion of non-BJP ruled states of setting up a ministerial panel to develop consensus on the issue of compensation, sources said.

Republic TV's CEO, COO grilled by Mumbai cops

Mumbai: The CEO and COO of Republic TV were questioned by Mumbai police on Sunday over the TRP manipulation case. **P10**

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 of City Express

3-week mid-term holiday for schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH growing concerns over the Covid-19 surge in the state, the Education Department has announced mid-term holidays for three weeks starting October 12 until October 30. Even teachers will be given leave during this period. The suspension of classes is applicable to online classes as well. This effectively means that a decision on reopening schools is deferred until after October 30.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday ordered a three-week holiday for schools in the state from October 12. The holidays are applicable to government-run, aided and unaided private schools, according to department officials. The Education Department also suspended the Vidyagama project on Saturday until further notice.

Yediyurappa said the classes and Vidyagama project have been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "Several teachers have been reported to be infected by the virus. Hence, students and teachers will have three weeks of holiday," he ordered while also wishing teachers and children "A Happy Dussehra".

The suspension applies to both online and offline classes, the in-charge, Principal Secretary, Department of Primary and Secondary Education, Tushar Girinath, told *TNIE*.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of Karnataka Associated Managements of English Mediums Schools (KAMS) has asked Tushar Girinath, to issue official orders stating that the holidays are applicable to even private unaided schools and online classes. **P7**

RAFALUTION
Rafael Nadal decimated World No 1 Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the French Open final on Sunday. This was his 20th Grand Slam title, equalling Roger Federer's all-time men's record
NO OF GRAND SLAM TITLES (M)
20 Roger Federer
20 Rafael Nadal
17 Novak Djokovic
P13

CBI takes charge; HC to hear Hathras victim's kin

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A day after the Centre handed over the probe into the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 20-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras district to the CBI, the agency registered a case at its Anti-Corruption Branch in Ghaziabad under relevant sections of the IPC and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on Sunday.

It filed its first information report (FIR) against main accused Sandeep of Boolgarhi village based on a complaint lodged by the victim's brother at Chandpa police station in Hathras on September 14.

He had alleged that the accused tried to strangulate her in a millet field.

The case was earlier being probed by a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the UP government on September 30. On the SIT's radar was also Dr Rajkumari Bansal, a member of the Jabalpur Medical College's faculty. She had stayed with the victim's family from October 4-6, posing as the deceased girl's sister-in-law. "I'm India's daughter. I'll go back to the family again and fight for them," Bansal told this newspaper. She also faces possible disciplinary action by her college.

The CBI named Seema Pahuja, Deputy Superintendent of Police, ACB (Ghaziabad), as the Investigating Officer for the probe. The team is likely to reach Hathras soon and take over the the case from the district police and the SIT.

Meanwhile, the victim's family members will appear before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday. The court on October 1 had asked them to appear in person to apprise it of their version of the incident. **P10**

Modi slams Oppn for attempt to derail reforms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lashed out at the critics of his government's agri-reforms, saying they do not want farmers to become self-reliant.

"Many people don't want villages, the poor, the farmer and the labourer to be 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant)," he said, speaking at a programme to launch the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' scheme.

The PM said his government's measures to empower farmers, including by directly transferring money to them, have hit the middleman hard by wiping out their source of "illegitimate earnings". He charged that the opposition strengthened its power through the middlemen. "They are upset, not for farmers, but for themselves. For ages, they strengthened their power through middlemen," the PM said.

"The beneficiaries will have a right, a legal document of owning their houses. The country has taken another major step towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat," the Prime Minister said.

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